



Department of State

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PAGE 02 OF 04 BEIRUT 09630 01 OF 02 311539Z C02/02 000622 NOD659
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 /000 W

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Z 311528Z AUG 83 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 2703

WHITEHOUSE WASHDC FLASH

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIRUT 09630

NODIS

DEPARTMENT FOR THE SECRETARY

WHITE HOUSE FOR JUDGE CLARK, EYES ONLY

ADDRESSEE POSTS FOR AMBASSADORS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, LE, IS, SY, FR, IT, UK, US, XF, MOPS

SUBJECT: MCFARLANE/FAIRBANKS MISSION: MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT GEMAYEL AND HIS ADVISERS

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: DURING THE COURSE OF A TWO-HOUR MEETING
WITH PRESIDENT GEMAYEL AND HIS ADVISERS, WE DEVELOPED
A FIVE-STAGE SCENARIO TO SUPPORT OUR POLITICAL STRATEGY
OVER THE NEXT TWO DAYS. END SUMMARY.

3. AMBASSADORS MCFARLANE AND FAIRBANKS ACCOMPANIED
BY ROSS AND TEICHER MET WITH PRESIDENT GEMAYEL.

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S/S-0
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PAGE 03 OF 04 BEIRUT 09630 01 OF 02 311539Z C02/02 000622 NOD659

PRIME MINISTER WAZZAN, FM SALEM AND NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER WADIA HADDAD FOR TWO HOURS, MORNING OF AUGUST 31 TO DEVISE AN AGREED STRATEGY AND NEXT STEPS FOR THE COMING 48 HOURS. THROUGHOUT THE MEETING PRESIDENT GEMAYEL AND PM WAZZAN RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALLS FROM ABROAD (FRENCH, SAUDIS AND JORDANIANS) AND FROM LEBANESE LEADERS (SAEB SALEM, SALIM EL-HUSS). PRESIDENT GEMAYEL BRIEFED US ON THE MILITARY STRATEGY DESIGNED TO END STREET FIGHTING IN WEST BEIRUT AND TO SILENCE PSP ARTILLERY FIRE INTO AND AROUND THE CITY. AMBASSADOR MCFARLANE EXPRESSED U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE DIFFICULT AND COURAGEOUS DECISION THAT GEMAYEL HAD TAKEN. THE THREATS HAD THEY NOT BEEN OPPOSED COULD HAVE LED TO THE CAPTURE OF BEIRUT, MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO UNIFY THE STATE. GEMAYEL WAS TO BE ESPECIALLY COMMENDED FOR KEEPING THE LEBANESE FORCES OUT OF THE CITY.

4. MCFARLANE SAID THAT IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT WE TURN OUR ATTENTION TO THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY STRATEGY FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS. THE GOVERNMENT WAS DEMONSTRATING MILITARY STRENGTH AND IT MUST ALSO DEMONSTRATE POLITICAL STRENGTH IN ORDER TO CHANGE THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE OPPOSITION. MCFARLANE STATED THAT IT IS CLEAR TO ALL INFORMED OBSERVERS THAT THE SYRIANS HAD INSPIRED THIS CIVIL STRIFE AND WERE SEEKING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AND EXACERBATE TENSIONS TO SERVE SYRIAN GOALS. THIS FACT MUST BE COMMUNICATED TO EVERY CAPITAL. THE STRATEGY NEEDED AN INTERNAL AND AN EXTERNAL COMPONENT. INTERNALLY, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE PRESIDENT TO COUNTER THE THREAT POSED BY THE PERCEPTION OF CIVIL STRIFE BY BRINGING TOGETHER ALL POLITICAL LEADERS IN AN EFFORT TO STOP THE FIGHTING

AND JOIN IN A COMMON CALL FOR SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL. EXTERNALLY, ANY THREAT TO ATTACK LEBANON MUST BE



Department of State

3/S-0
INCOMING

PAGE 04 OF 04 BEIRUT 09630 01 OF 02 311539Z 002/02 000622 NOD659
OPPOSED BY THE ENTIRE WESTERN COMMUNITY AND THE ARAB
WORLD. THE U.S. HAS POSITIONED FORCES IN THE EASTERN
MEDITERRANEAN IN THE HOPE THAT THE SYRIANS WILL BE
DETERRED.

5. FOLLOWING CONSIDERABLE GIVE AND TAKE AND MORE PHONE
CALLS, MCFARLANE AND GEMAYEL AGREED TO A FIVE-STEP
SCENARIO FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS.

-- INTERNATIONAL REINFORCEMENT OF LEBANESE STATEMENT
BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

-- STRONG SAUDI DEMARCHE IN DAMASCUS

-- PREPARATION OF DEMARCHE FOR ARAB LEAGUE AND
UN SECURITY COUNCIL.

-- ON SEPTEMBER 1 CALL FOR URGENT MEETING OF THE
ARAB LEAGUE AND SIMULTANEOUS CALL FOR WITHDRAWAL OF
SYRIAN FORCES FROM LEBANON.

-- COMBINED U.S., FRENCH, ITALIAN AND BRITISH
DEMARCHES TO DAMASCUS CALLING ON SYRIA TO EXPRESS
STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON, DEMAND
AN END TO THE SUBVERSION OF LEBANON AND SUPPORT WITH-
DRAWAL OF SYRIAN FORCES.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO

SECRET